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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 15th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 4 June 1991, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. PIRIZ-BALLON (Uruguay)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (continued)

(a) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR 1990 AND PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES (continued) (DP/1991/28, Parts I-III, DP/1991/30, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35)

1. Mr. SAHA (India) said that UNFPA could share the credit for the increase in contraceptive use in developing countries since 1970. The world's population was increasing by 1 million every four days, and that situation must be addressed as a matter of priority by the countries concerned. Their capacities were seriously limited, however, since in order for them to meet their basic needs, strategy issues had to be pushed into the background. A number of countries, including India, provided much of the funding for contraception and family planning from their own domestic resources. A significant proportion of funding needs were unmet, however, and external assistance was urgently required. Donor countries should step up their support.

2. Fertility was declining more slowly than had been estimated, despite the fact that 51 per cent of all married women now used contraceptives. Many women had no access to contraceptives because of limited availability.

3. India welcomed the policy statement of OECD to the effect that it was ready to help developing countries identify and implement population strategies.

4. There were 3.1 billion people in the Asia and the Pacific region, accounting for more than half of the world's population. The region also had the highest rate of population growth, yet it was allocated only one third of UNFPA programme resources. That proportion should be increased.

5. On the subject of successor arrangements for agency support costs (DP/1991/35), technical posts at agency headquarters should not be covered by reimbursements for administrative and operational services, but should be absorbed into the regular agency budget. Based on the cost-sharing formula, UNFPA reimbursement of administrative and operational costs should be limited to 50 per cent, and the percentage for administrative support should not exceed 11.6 per cent. The new arrangements should be in place by 1 January 1992.

6. Ms. JANJUA (Pakistan) said that donor countries should fully support the annual 10 per cent increase in their contributions for the UNFPA work plan for 1992-1995. The requirement for African economies to grow at annual rates of 8 to 10 per cent to keep pace with population growth would soon be replicated in the South Asian countries. Her Government was extremely concerned about the current population explosion in Pakistan, which had an annual population

(Ms. Janjua, Pakistan)

growth rate of over 3 per cent. Unless that rate was reduced, all national development efforts would be in vain. The Government was fully committed to arresting the trend, which was unfortunately attributable to cultural factors: in a predominantly agricultural society, an extra head meant an additional worker in an area where mechanization was still not well entrenched.

7. While her delegation was aware of the interplay between population factors, environmental conservation and sustainable development, it wished to point out that the growing population of the developing countries was not the primary threat to the environment. The developed countries were primarily responsible for the damage done to the environment.

8. Mr. MAJOOR (Netherlands) said that his country was pleased to be able to contribute financially to the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held in 1994, and would finance the expert meeting on women, population and development.

9. The fact that UNFPA's resource utilization rate had risen to over 100 per cent (DP/1991/30, para. 3) was a very encouraging development, showing that more and more Governments had become aware of population problems. To stay healthy financially, however, the Fund should spend more or less the same as it received in the medium term. That meant that its income would have to continue to rise by 10 per cent a year if the resource utilization rate was not to surpass 100 per cent. At the same time, it was important to allocate resources to projects and programmes on the basis of a realistic income projection.

10. His country was pleased that UNFPA was integrating AIDS components into its activities and encouraged the Fund to continue that approach. The Netherlands also supported the Fund's efforts to explore the complex relationships between environment and population, and would be contributing $US 460,000 to UNFPA activities to provide input for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, at which those relationships should be discussed.

11. Turning to the report on the status of financial implementation of UNFPA programmes and projects (DP/1991/31), clearer information was needed on the source of funds. He wished to know why the resource delivery rate for the sector on women and development was so low by comparison with other sectors (DP/1991/31, figure 1). The status report on the implementation strategy to strengthen the capacity of the Fund to deal with issues concerning women, population and development (DP/1991/32) concluded that the staff of UNFPA was now sufficiently aware of gender issues, but did not yet know how to integrate them into projects. The focus of training should therefore be shifted to translating awareness into specific projects and programmes. The Netherlands congratulated UNFPA on the substantial increase in its percentage of female Professional staff.

(Mr. Majoor, Netherlands)

12. His delegation supported the conclusions of the report on the strategy for sub-Saharan Africa (DP/1991/33). Much more needed to be done to increase the demand for family planning in that region. While his delegation agreed with the conclusions of the report on contraceptive requirements (DP/1991/34), it felt that the report reflected purely demographic thinking and paid no attention to the needs of women and to ways of influencing demand.

13. Turning to the proposed UNFPA successor arrangements for agency support costs (DP/1991/35), his delegation trusted that agreement on a reimbursement level of 6 per cent between UNFPA and executing agencies under the new arrangements (para. 66) reflected a fair compromise. The proposal document did not give enough information on the linkage between the new arrangements and the desire to promote national execution. His delegation also felt that executing agencies should finance some of their headquarters technical staff currently financed by UNFPA.

14. Mr. LIMA (Brazil) noted that the increase in voluntary contributions to UNFPA had allowed the Fund to concentrate 80 per cent of its resources on the country programmes of least developed countries without reducing the resources allocated to other countries. For Latin America and the Caribbean, there had been an increase in real terms of $2.6 million over the past two years. Brazil supported the proposed intercountry programme for 1992-1995 with respect to the distribution of resources among regions. It noted with satisfaction the proposal in the work plan for 1992-1995 (DP/1991/30, para. 26) to increase the resources allocated to Latin America and the Caribbean by 52 per cent over the previous period. Some 76 per cent of those resources were allocated to country programmes.

15. Turning to the report on contraceptive requirements (DP/1991/34), Brazil was concerned that its recommendations were limited to the actions necessary for improving the quality of the Fund's activities, especially with regard to the acquisition and distribution of contraceptives. No action was proposed for improving the quality of contraceptives or for production in developing countries of contraceptives which would be internationally accepted, so as to reduce dependence on markets in the developed world.

16. Mr. OUALI (Algeria) said that his Government was aware of the relevance of population issues and sought to allocate the necessary funds to strengthening family planning programmes and reducing population growth. A rapidly expanding network of grass-roots organizations was involved in that effort, which required continued support from donors, including UNFPA. Algeria particularly welcomed cooperation in the fields of communication, education and family planning. He noted with satisfaction that the Fund's activities had been expanded in Algeria. His Government fully supported the recommendations contained in document DP/1991/35, in particular the proposals for increasing the number of regional advisers providing technical assistance in the Arab States, especially in the Maghreb, where demographic pressures were affecting development efforts. Lastly, he stressed that inter-agency

(Mr. Quali, Algeria)

cooperation, especially at the field level between UNFPA, WHO and UNICEF, would result in more effective use of resources.

17. Mr. AYEWAH (Nigeria) noted with satisfaction the steps being taken by the international community to meet the serious challenges in the field of population control in the 1990s. In Nigeria, the Fund was currently carrying out a five-year programme to promote awareness of the need for population control and, in cooperation with WHO, was mounting a campaign for family planning. His Government intended to conduct a national census, which would provide the basis for meaningful planning for a democratic society by 1992. UNFPA had also provided technical support for that effort.

18. Efforts should continue to be made to enhance the Fund's efficiency and financial discipline. Family planning, information, education, research on population policy and programmes dealing with women's issues should continue to be the focus of its work. His delegation commended the Fund's constructive approach to crucially important population issues and was sure that, with steady donor support, it would be able to meet the challenges that lay ahead.

19. Mr. KALIBWANI (Observer for Uganda) emphasized the need for a better balance between population growth, available resources and development. He noted with appreciation UNFPA efforts to help the Governments of developing countries educate their citizens about the implications of uncontrolled population growth and equip them with the means to limit the size of families. In view of sub-Saharan Africa's high population growth rate and low per capita GNP, that region should remain the Fund's priority area.

20. He expressed appreciation for the Fund's support for Uganda's current country programme, which was helping the Government carry out important projects in such areas as population policy and planning and demographic analysis and training. Thanks to those efforts, Uganda's population was rapidly gaining an understanding of the importance of limiting family size and the dynamics of population growth. Unfortunately, family planning services were available only in urban areas, where 10 per cent of the population lived, and in a few scattered health centres in rural areas. Most women in Uganda, therefore, had no access to such services. It was a sad irony that at a time when African countries were ready to move ahead with large-scale population programmes, international assistance remained at modest levels. Lastly, Uganda welcomed the commitment by UNFPA to build a domestic capacity for carrying out its activities and to promote national execution of some projects. His country's strategy for technical cooperation was designed to ensure cost-effectiveness and self-reliance.

21. Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines) emphasized the need to focus future assistance on a more pragmatic approach to poverty alleviation in her country. Experience showed that real economic opportunities, particularly for rural women, were an important incentive for limiting family size and should be integrated into long-term population control programmes. There was a need to

(Mrs. Limjuco, Philippines)

enhance the impact of UNFPA assistance on the welfare of rural households and population growth by incorporating the Fund's activities into a broader framework for promoting income-generating projects in rural areas. She strongly urged the UNFPA field office to participate in the ongoing dialogue between UNDP and the Philippine Government aimed at devising an appropriate framework for poverty alleviation. Such participation would enhance the coordination of aid between UNDP and the other United Nations agencies and donors involved.

22. Mr. MUTURI (Kenya) said that his country's high population growth rate had placed an enormous burden on the national economy. Over the past quarter of a century, his Government had allocated more than a third of the national budget to education in the field of population, family planning and health and social services. Ambitious education programmes and improved health services had succeeded in increasing life expectancy, but lowering the fertility rate had proved more difficult because of cultural and social practices. In keeping with its commitment to family planning, Kenya had established the National Council for Population and Development in 1982 to coordinate relevant activities by the Government and non-governmental organizations in the areas of preventive health care, medical care, family planning, in-school instruction, youth and women's activities, and the dissemination of information on population control.

23. The major bilateral and multilateral development partners played a leading role in promoting grass-roots family planning efforts in the overall context of national development. Kenya's population growth rate had been reduced somewhat and there were signs of progress in the area of population control.

24. Mr. LEE (International Labour Organisation), speaking also on behalf of WHO, UNESCO and FAO, said that he endorsed fully the proposed UNFPA successor arrangements for agency support costs, as set out in paragraphs 24 to 28 of document DP/1991/35, and the institutional framework for technical support services. The cost-sharing formula for dealing with indirect administrative and operational services was also acceptable. The proposed arrangements provided a potentially more effective mechanism for channelling the collective technical knowledge and experience of the United Nations system in support of population activities and would ensure a more integrated and coordinated approach to population, higher quality of technical services and greater cost-effectiveness.

25. A major effort was needed on the part of the Fund and the agencies to ensure the success of the new arrangements, which must be developed and implemented as flexibly as possible in order to find the best ways to achieve the agreed objectives. Some aspects had still to be worked out between individual agencies and UNFPA through bilateral discussions. Once overall support cost arrangements had been approved by the Council, each agency would have to recommend them for adoption by its respective governing body. Lastly,

(Mr. Lee, ILO)

he noted with satisfaction the report on the proposed UNFPA intercountry programme, 1992-1995 (DP/1991/29). The proposed research and training activities would be a vital instrument for enhancing the quality of technical support to country-level activities.

26. Ms. PRADEL (Germany) said that her delegation fully endorsed the overall principles of the Fund's successor arrangements for agency support costs. Nevertheless, technical support services involved considerable overlapping of functions among the numerous parties providing technical support. That made it necessary to define functions and responsibilities clearly, and it might be possible to streamline and reduce the administrative costs of technical services.

27. Country directors or UNDP resident representatives might be in a better position to identify and mobilize national expertise. Governments should formulate programmes and projects themselves. The organization of training activities seemed to be the task of UNFPA country representatives. The role of regional teams in that regard was not clear. The division of labour between country offices and regional teams should be clearly defined. It was difficult to identify sufficient tasks to justify a full post for a team leader or the continued existence of country directors.

28. Some UNFPA field offices should be strengthened so that regional teams could operate within country offices and be managed by regional directors. There was a need for specialists and coordinators in the headquarters and regional offices of agencies in order to integrate population into the work of the different agencies. Nevertheless, some of the tasks involved were really the responsibility of either the country director or the regional team.

29. She wondered how the experts mentioned would be involved in the execution of country projects, what their relationship would be to the administrative and operational support provided by their headquarters, what their role would be in research and training, and what their relationship would be with the United Nations Volunteers and the International Planned Parenthood Federation. Her delegation was concerned that there would only be a proportionate number of experts for maternal and child health and family planning, a field that went to the heart of UNFPA's mandate, whereas a more than proportionate number were to be allocated to population policies and programmes, which tended to be purely academic. Information, education and communication was also to be assigned fewer experts than appeared necessary.

30. There was only one socio-cultural expert in the Latin America and the Caribbean region and none in the other regions, although socio-cultural research cut across all major fields of activity. UNFPA should take account of its set priorities in allocating experts to the various sectors of population activities.

(Ms. Pradel, Germany)

31. Administrative and operational services were, disappointingly, to remain centralized and to lose funding. Administrative execution of projects should, where possible, be done at the field level.

32. With respect to finances, UNFPA was to be commended for keeping support costs to about 13 per cent, but the provisions for the sharing of technical support costs seemed vague. Technical support, moreover, was to receive much more funding under the new regime. Her delegation appreciated the shift, but wondered how realistic that apportionment was, since the corresponding rates for UNDP were very different. It might also result in serious underfunding of administrative and operational services.

33. The new regional teams should, where possible, be located on the same premises as regional commissions or UNFPA country offices, so as to save substantial rental, administrative support and other costs. The duties of team leader and country director should also be carefully studied, with a view to avoiding duplication. In any case, team leaders' salaries should come from UNFPA's core administrative budget and not be considered support costs.

34. All in all, her delegation was aware of too many open questions to be able to make a final decision on the proposed UNFPA successor arrangements for support costs.

35. Mr. TABAH (France) said that in order to be in a position to assess the reorganization of the Fund's operations, delegations needed to know how the whole system operated. Document DP/1991/35 was clear but limited in scope and could not cover all the complexities of the system. A diagram of the new versus the old system would have facilitated discussion and understanding.

36. On the whole, his delegation agreed with UNFPA's plan for the restructuring of assistance, but noted that certain problems persisted: change was slow at the national level, and regional advisers were overworked as more and more projects accumulated, forcing them to concern themselves with administration - a situation that would worsen if nothing changed. In addition, regional efforts seemed scattered and regional coordinators must be recruited without delay. With respect to the institutional and financial interests involved, if the Executive Director's plan was accepted, the money saved through better organization might be reabsorbed because of increasing responsibilities. France was also worried that the United Nations did not seem to agree with the UNFPA plan.

37. The hierarchy of the various new and old teams dealing with technical support and population issues seemed uncertain. Nor was a transition period specified. He wondered, too, how the location of technical support teams was to be decided, especially in multilingual areas, and what was to become of regional training and research centres such as CELADE, which his delegation thought should be strengthened and integrated into the new network.

(Mr. Tabah, France)

38. On the whole, his delegation was not opposed to the changes but was concerned at the unequal treatment given to specialized agencies and United Nations bodies. It believed that it might be better to introduce the new arrangements on an experimental basis first.

39. Mr. URBINA (Observer for Mexico) said that the idea of a staff of experts who could provide technical support at the interregional, regional and country levels was a novel one and could offer advantages for the administration and coordination of technical assistance. It was necessary, however, to consider in greater detail how such a network would be organized, since there was a danger that multiple reporting relationships would develop. The plan should be implemented gradually and evaluated periodically.

40. Special attention should also be paid to the financial support required by agencies and institutions with a proven track record in population matters which could assist in the strategy of decentralizing the Fund's operations, especially in regard to training.

41. Given the importance of family planning in the regional programme for Latin America and the Caribbean, his delegation was keen to share its experience and to broaden training programmes both in Mexico and in the region. It would be worth while to consider granting technical and financial support for the creation of a regional family planning training centre that would draw on the expertise of the multidisciplinary teams and cooperate in governmental and non-governmental programmes in the region.

42. The proposal for successor arrangements was one that sought positive changes and, with careful implementation and the cooperation of all organizations concerned, should contribute decisively to improving the quality and impact of national population projects.

43. Mr. SOUTTER (Canada) said that progress in programme implementation and management would be critical for UNFPA in the 1990s. A practical and effective support cost arrangement was therefore desirable in order to improve programme delivery in developing countries. The report, however, focused almost exclusively on the United Nations system and it was unclear whether consultations had been held with United Nations agencies only or also with recipient countries. The quality of agency programme delivery had also been questioned in several reports, with 80 per cent of the work being rated fair to poor.

44. His delegation wondered whether advisers would continue to report directly to their own directors or to UNFPA directors, and favoured the latter solution. Problems of quality and timeliness had been the result of recruitment by specialized agencies; as no changes were envisaged in that area, such problems were likely to persist. Reporting relationships also seemed to betray some of the ambiguities that had already caused problems. Team members should report to their team leader, who was not just a

(Mr. Soutter, Canada)

coordinator. Work plans should be the responsibility of UNFPA in general, but of the team leader in particular; joint responsibility was no responsibility and the Fund's responsibility was indivisible.

45. With respect to technical support services in Africa, the number of experts suggested seemed very high in relation to the number of projects: 53 for nearly 400 projects costing some $42 million. He calculated that the services of experts added a third to the cost of each project.

46. Since his delegation was committed to institution-building, it would prefer to see UNFPA deliver the necessary technical support, and would therefore like to know where the different teams would be located. He agreed with the Netherlands representative that there was a danger that the proposal would postpone the full utilization of national capacities because it called for so many international experts. It was important to try to make the maximum possible use of regional expertise.

47. In short, his delegation would like the principles of good management to be followed and clear lines of responsibility to be observed. National capacity should not be inhibited, and costs should be reasonable and transparent. If the report was not clarified on those points, it would be difficult for his delegation to support it.

48. Mr. NIKAI (Japan) said that his delegation understood that the current system had serious shortcomings and that the new arrangement involving country programme technical support teams headed by a UNFPA-appointed team leader would promote improved technical backstopping and encourage national execution. His delegation basically endorsed the proposal but thought it needed clarification.

49. UNFPA's traditional position had been that the adviser posts it funded should be absorbed, as far as possible, by the specialized agencies. It should now take an advocacy role on population issues vis-à-vis individual countries and international organizations. Otherwise, the agencies might assume that they need no longer try to absorb population-related posts. Moreover, there was still about a 10 per cent vacancy rate in posts supported by the Fund; it might be better to fill them before deciding realistically how many advisers there should be. His delegation welcomed the cost savings afforded by the proposal, but wondered whether more could be done and whether the cost estimates included increases due to inflation. He noted that reimbursement of indirect costs would apply to country activities only, and wondered how intercountry activities would be handled. His delegation was concerned to know what the relationship would be between the regional teams and regional commissions. Lastly, the system was sufficiently complex that there was perhaps no need to expedite arrangements that had not yet gained the approval of the United Nations. Japan hoped that the Council would give the matter thorough consideration.

50. Mr. KELLAND (Denmark), speaking also on behalf of Finland, Norway and Sweden, said that the four Nordic countries welcomed the proposed successor arrangements for agency support costs which, if successful, would provide an example of how the United Nations system could undertake a coordinated effort. The change of emphasis to population policy formulation, evaluation and implementation and to maternal and child health and family planning was also welcome.

51. Some clarification was nevertheless required, since it was not clear where accountability for the work of the country programme technical support teams would lie. There should be no doubt as to the responsibility of the UNFPA Executive Director in that regard. The successor arrangements also seemed to make no provision for cooperation with UNICEF when that would seem natural, especially in the area of maternal and child health and family planning. The four Nordic delegations supported the increased use of national expertise and wished to know to what extent UNFPA would use experts from developing countries on the regional teams.

52. The proposals represented a major innovation, which inevitably meant that no one could be sure of the results. Accordingly, the statement in the report that the arrangements would be evaluated after three years of implementation was prudent. At the very least, the basis for improvement had been clearly established, and a decision on the successor arrangements should be taken at the current session.

53. Mrs. KRAUER MULLER (Switzerland) said that her delegation endorsed the formation by UNFPA of technical support teams to strengthen project delivery. Nevertheless, a number of points with regard to the implementation of the proposed new arrangements and their financial implications needed to be clarified. For example, it was not clear how responsibilities within the technical support teams would be allocated. In addition, teams would be drawn from United Nations agencies and coordinated by a UNFPA-appointed team leader. That seemed likely to create difficulties in terms of areas of responsibility. The same was true of the relationship between support teams and regional offices. The proposed successor arrangements should therefore be implemented on a trial basis initially. Her delegation would also welcome further details as to how the new arrangements would be monitored and evaluated.

54. With regard to the financial implications of the proposed arrangements, the report failed to provide an adequate breakdown of costs. It was not clear whether UNFPA would assume responsibility for all or only part of the operating costs which would be incurred, or whether some of the costs now covered under the 13 per cent reimbursement to executing agencies would be transferred to project budgets. If that was indeed the case, then some of the comparisons of project costs drawn in the report would seem to be invalid. The proposed reimbursement of some services at a rate of 6 per cent would also have an impact on the budgets of the specialized agencies.

(Mrs. Krauer Muller, Switzerland)

55. A more fundamental question was that of acceptance of the proposed model by the specialized agencies. There was clearly a fundamental difference of opinion between the United Nations and UNFPA on the proposals, while the agencies' governing bodies had yet to state their acceptance. In that situation, the Governing Council could not take a decision at the current session to adopt the new arrangements. Negotiations should continue between UNFPA and the other organizations concerned, with a view to reaching a consensus solution which could then be adopted by the Governing Council, perhaps at a special session in 1992.

56. Mr. MISSARY (Observer for Yemen) said that his delegation supported the recommendations on successor arrangements submitted in document DP/1991/35. In particular, under the proposed new arrangements developing countries should receive more timely and appropriate technical support and information.

57. Mr. MOYE (United Kingdom) said that the fundamental criterion to be applied to UNFPA was the provision of cost-effective, quality services. There was no doubt that the current system of support costs had severe shortcomings, in view of which his delegation welcomed the proposals for successor arrangements, with their greater emphasis on cost-effectiveness and transparency. Nevertheless, clarification was needed of the relationship between UNFPA headquarters, country offices and technical support teams, and of the lines of command. It would also be interesting to know what other models had been considered in formulating the proposed successor arrangements. The report on the arrangements stated that monitoring would be carried out by the Inter-Agency Task Force, but it did not specify exactly how, or what the composition of the Task Force would be. Specifically, his delegation was interested in knowing what criteria the Task Force would apply in selecting team members, who would need to possess a wide range of abilities.

58. With regard to the specialized agencies, his delegation would like to know whether any difficulties were anticipated in the approval of the successor arrangements by the respective governing bodies. Lastly, it was important that the new arrangements be applied flexibly and that changes be made where appropriate.

59. Mr. IBRAHIM (Djibouti) said that his delegation, while welcoming the proposals for successor arrangements, shared the concerns expressed by other delegations regarding, for example, the relationship between regional offices and UNFPA. The Fund must provide more details of its proposals.

60. Mr. SINGH (Technical and Evaluation Division, United Nations Population Fund), introducing the report of the Executive Director on contraceptive requirements and demand for contraceptive commodities in developing countries in the 1990s (DP/1991/34), said that a substantial increase in resources for family planning programmes would be needed in order to increase contraceptive prevalence to the point where the total fertility rate fell to the 3.3 births per woman by the year 2000 factored into the United Nations medium-variant

population projection. For the total fertility rate to decline as projected, contraceptive prevalence must rise from 51 per cent to 59 per cent which, translated into regional terms, meant, for instance, that the number of contraceptive users would need to increase by 140 million in Asia and the Pacific alone. Projections would also need to take into account condom requirements for HIV/AIDS prevention.

61. Local production of contraceptives was under consideration in a number of developing countries. Two possible scenarios applied: first, that donor agencies would assume all financial responsibility for technology transfer and, secondly, that the private sector would provide the major portion of the capital investment, with donor agencies supporting activities relating to quality control and feasibility studies. The overall costs, regardless of the scenario, ranged from $46 million to $147 million. In both scenarios, a major portion of the funds would be expended by the end of the first five years. Even with the higher figure, donor assistance would cover only 2.9 per cent of the estimated total cost of $5 billion for contraceptives for the period 1991-2000.

62. Access to and availability of contraceptives were among the most important elements in reducing fertility. In developing countries, contraceptives were generally available from a variety of sources, including the commercial sector, government clinics and community-based distribution systems. Contraceptive social marketing had, since the early 1980s, been more cost-effective in reaching potential users than public channels. In addition to subsidizing prices, such marketing used systematic research to determine demand and to establish community-based distribution channels for specific target groups.

63. The report indicated that if the contraceptives required by developing countries were purchased on the international market, the cost would amount to some $627 million in the year 2000, not taking into account service delivery costs or costs for transport and storage. The highest regional cost would be in Asia and the Pacific, although Africa would have the highest proportional increase.

64. On the basis of past patterns, the report projected that total costs might be shared among the Governments of developing countries, the private commercial sector and the international donor community. Assuming a reasonable sharing of total costs, developing country Governments would need to provide $320 million, the private sector some $109 million and the international donor community approximately $198 million, reflecting a 9 per cent shift in costs from Governments to the donor community.

65. Lastly, the most recent Consultative Meeting had suggested that UNFPA, in cooperation with other interested parties, should focus on country-specific studies, and had identified 12 countries to that end. The studies would deal not only with contraceptive requirements but also with logistics management

(Mr. Singh)

and the possibility of local production. UNFPA would make the services of its Procurement Unit available to any donor which wished to avail itself of them.

66. Mrs. DUDIK GAYOSO (United States of America) said that her delegation welcomed the report on contraceptive requirements, which underlined the rapidly growing demand for contraceptives in developing countries. It was now necessary to ensure that enough supplies were available to meet the needs of current users, while supplying the millions of new users projected in the 1990s. Her delegation fully supported the Executive Director's recommendations, which would lead to substantial improvements in contraceptive supplies. Specifically, greater attention should be given to logistics management in order to distribute supplies efficiently. Procurement in the case of small purchases could be made more cost-effective by aggregating requirements. The UNFPA Procurement Unit should be strengthened to undertake that major new responsibility. A large share of supplies must come from the commercial sector, with the result that the capacity of commercial enterprises to expand access in developing countries to affordable contraceptives was critical for achieving the goals described in the report.

67. Lastly, her delegation commended UNFPA for its leadership role in hosting the Consultative Meetings on Contraceptive Requirements in Developing Countries. It looked forward to participating with the Fund in joint missions to selected countries in order to work with host country Governments in preparing detailed estimates of contraceptive requirements and in studying the costs of logistics management and, where appropriate, the possibility of local production. Such a coordinated effort was critical if the substantial increases in supplies which would be needed in the 1990s were to be forthcoming.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.